

REMARKS

Claims 1-70 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-70 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 37, 46, and 55 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, at least, in the description of FIG. 4 in the specification. Support for the amendments to claims 10, 37, and 55 can be found, at least, in the description of FIGs. 2 and 3 in the specification.

Claims 5 and 32 have been cancelled.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5, 10-18, 32, 37-45 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5, 32, and 50 have been canceled, and thus the rejection of these claims is moot.

With respect to claims 10-18 and 37-45, claims 10 and 37 have been amended to explicitly state that the session identifier is assigned to a user. Applicants assert that these claims are definite.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 12-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-37, 39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62 and 64-70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Request for Comments 2866: RADIUS Accounting” (RFC 2866) in view of Hundscheidt, et al., European Patent Application Publication No., EP 1 014 619 A1 (herein after referred to as Hundscheidt).

With respect to amended claim 1, the cited art fails to teach or suggest associating a session identifier with a user, wherein the session identifier is associated with the user by a network access server and providing the session identifier to an off-load server, wherein the off-load server is configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment

operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider, and the off-load server is configured to include the session identifier in a second request sent to the AAA module.

RFC 2866 describes a system in which a network access server can send a request, which includes a session identifier, to a RADIUS server. As noted in the rejection of claim 1, “RFC 2866” does not disclose providing a session identifier to an off-load server. The rejection relies on the “MSC” described in Hundscheidt to teach this feature of claim 1. Office Action, p. 5.

Hundscheidt describes a system in which circuit-switched call records can be correlated with packet-switched session records by exchanging identifying information between devices in the circuit-switched and packet-switched networks. Hundscheidt, paragraphs 12 and 32. The mobile services switching center (MSC) within a circuit-switched network can include or be coupled to an access server within a packet-switched network. *See, e.g.*, Hundscheidt, paragraphs 12 and 35. For an incoming mobile call, the MSC is configured to generate a call data record and set up a connection with the network access server. Hundscheidt, paragraph 35. In Hundscheidt’s system, a RADIUS server generates a session identifier and returns this session identifier to the network access server. Hundscheidt, paragraph 37. The network access server then forwards the session identifier to the MSC. Hundscheidt, paragraph 35. The MSC can add the session identifier to a corresponding call data record, thus providing the ability to correlate the circuit-switched call data record with the packet-switched session. Hundscheidt, paragraph 35.

The cited portions of Hundscheidt do not teach or suggest the offload server recited in claim 1. Unlike the off-load server in claim 1, the MSC is not configured to establish a network connection between communication equipment operated by the user and a server operated by a network service provider. In particular, while the MSC does connect a mobile caller to an access server, the Office Action does not cite any portion of the reference to show that the access server is operated by a network service provider. Furthermore, unlike the off-load server of claim 1, the MSC is not configured to include the session identifier in a first request sent to an AAA module. The MSC appears to be unable to communicate with the RADIUS server; instead, the MSC relies upon the access server to forward the session identifier to the MSC. *See, e.g.*, paragraph 35. Thus, there is no suggestion that the MSC be able to communicate with the RADIUS server, let alone any suggestion that the MSC be able to include the session identifier in a request sent to

an AAA module as recited in claim 1. RFC 2866 also fails to teach or suggest such a feature of an off-load server. Accordingly, for at least this reason, the cited art fails to teach or suggest claim 1. Claims 3, 6-10, 12-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26-28, 30, 33-37, 39-44, 46, 48, 51-55, 57-62 and 64-70 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

Additionally with respect to claims 10, 37, and 55, the cited art fails to anticipate, teach, or suggest determining whether a session identifier value is provided by an access server to an offload server, and assigning, if the session identifier value is not provided by the access server to the off-load server, the session identifier value to the user, wherein the assigning is performed by the off-load server. In particular, the MSC of Hundscheidt, which the Office Action attempts to equate with the off-load server, does not assign a session identifier value if one is not provided. Neither reference, alone or in combination, suggests an off-load server configured to assign a session identifier value to a user, if one is not provided by the access server.

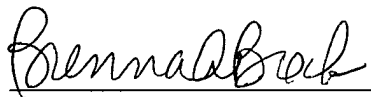
Additionally with respect to claim 68, the cited art does not teach or suggest a method that involves assigning a session identifier to a call detected by a network access server and providing the session identifier from the network access server to an off-load server, wherein the off-load server provides one of Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP), Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP), Multipoint Point-to-Point Protocol, and PPP over Ethernet (PPPoE) service to the network access server. In particular, the MSC of Hundscheidt, which the Office Action attempts to equate with the off-load server, does not provide any of the listed services to the network access server. Neither reference, alone or in combination, suggest such an off-load server.

Claims 2, 4-5, 11, 18, 22, 25, 29, 31, 32, 38, 45, 47, 49, 50, 56 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over RFC 2866 and Hundscheidt, and further in view of "Request for Comments 2867: RADIUS Accounting Modifications for Tunnel Protocol Support" (RFC 2867). These claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons provided above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 12, 2006.



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1-12-2006

Date of Signature

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